In Claim 4, line 1, delete "any one of the preceding claims" and insert --claim 1--.

In Claim 5, line 1, delete "any one of the preceding claims" and insert --claim 1--.

In Claim 6, line 1, delete "any one of the preceding claims" and insert --claim 1--.

In Claim 6, line 6, after "modifying", replace "the" with --a--.

In Claim 6, line 7, replace "the" with --a--.

In Claim 6, line 8, replace "the" with --a--.

In Claim 6, line 9, replace "the" with --a--.

In Claim 7, line 1, delete "any one of the preceding claims" and insert --claim 1--.

In Claim 8, line 1, delete "any one of the preceding claims" and insert --claim 1--.

In Claim 8, line 4, before "list", replace "the" with --a--.

In Claim 9, line 1, delete "any one of the preceding claims" and insert --claim 1--.

In Claim 10, line 1, delete "any one of the preceding claims" and insert --claim 1--.

In Claim 11, line 1, delete "any one of the preceding claims" and insert --claim 1--.

12. (Amended) A system[, preferably] implementing a virus-free certificate authority (102), [for carrying out the method according to any one of the preceding claims.] said system comprising a processor that executes a program for implementing a method having steps of:

- receiving (300) a virus-free certificate request for a file from a server (101) or a client (100) system, said virus-free certificate request comprising the file for which the virus-free certificate is requested;
- determining (301) whether a virus-free certificate is integrated in the file;

If no virus-free certificate is integrated in the file:

- determining (305) whether the file is virus-free or not;

if the file is declared virus-free by the virus-free certificate authority (102):

- generating (313, 314) a virus-free certificate (200) comprising a file signature (207) for certifying that said file is declared virus-free by the virus-free certificate authority (102);
- integrating (316) the generated virus-free certificate (200) in the file;

sending (316) back in response to the virus-free certificate request the file with the integrated virus-free certificate (200).

13. (Amended) A computer program <u>recorded on a computer-readable medium and</u> comprising instructions [for carrying out the] <u>executing a</u> method [according to any one of claims 1 to 11.] <u>having the steps of:</u>

- <u>receiving (300) a virus-free certificate request for a file from a server (101) or a client (100) system, said virus-free certificate request comprising the file for which the virus-free certificate is requested;</u>
- <u>determining (301) whether a virus-free certificate is integrated in the file;</u>

<u>If no virus-free certificate is integrated in the file:</u>

- <u>determining (305) whether the file is virus-free or not;</u>

<u>if the file is declared virus-free by the virus-free certificate authority (102):</u>

- <u>generating (313, 314) a virus-free certificate (200) comprising a file signature (207) for certifying that said file is declared virus-free by the virus-free certificate authority (102);</u>
- <u>integrating (316) the generated virus-free certificate (200) in the file;</u>

<u>sending (316) back in response to the virus-free certificate request the file with the integrated virus-free certificate (200).</u>

In Claim 15, line 1, delete "the preceding claim" and insert --claim 14--.

In Claim 16, line 1, delete "any one of claims 14 to 15" and insert --claim 14--.

In Claim 17, line 1, delete "any one of claims 14 to 16" and insert --claim 16--.

In Claim 18, line 1, delete "any one of claims 14 to 17" and insert --claim 14--.

In Claim 19, line 1, delete "any one of claims 14 to 18" and insert --claim 14--.

In Claim 20, line 1, delete "any one of claims 14 to 19" and insert --claim 14--.

In Claim 20, line 5, before "file header", replace "the" with --a--.

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21. A system[, preferably a server (101) or client (100) system, for carrying out the method according to any one of claims 14 to 20.] <u>having a processor that determines that a file is virus-free, said processor executing a program for implementing a method having steps of:</u>

- <u>determining (401) whether a virus-free certificate (200) is integrated within a file;</u>

<u>if a virus-free certificate is integrated within the file:</u>

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